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SOURCE Newspapers and periodical as indicated.

FORESTATION IN BULGARIA

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Report on 1951

In 1951, the forest-seed-collecting plan was fulfilled 176 percent. To improve conditions for storing forest seeds, storage houses have been built in Tolbukhin, Balchik, Silistra, and General Toshevo okoliyas.

The plan for the production of saplings was fulfilled 115 percent. Thirty-eight million more saplings were grown in 1951 than in 1950. The former forest section in Razlog fulfilled its plan for fortifying eroded lands and forestation 140 percent and Balchik has given the highest quality saplings for the needs of field shelter belts in Dobrudzha.

The [1951] plan for forestation was fulfilled 107 percent, as 150,000 more decarees of new forest areas have been set up in comparison with last year [1950]. In this respect the Sofia section has distinguished itself for fortifying eroded lands and forestation. It fulfilled its forestation plan 300 percent. The "Kolesov sword" method (mechut na Kolesov), a faster and cheaper method of work, has been introduced in planting saplings. The sowing of tree seeds directly on the land has also been put into wide use. In the Peshtera and Velingrad forest regions 70 percent of the tree seeds have been planted in this manner.

In Bulgaria no serious attention has been paid for several years to growing young trees artificially. Last year, mass digging and weeding of trees was undertaken for the first time and the plan for this measure was fulfilled 156 percent. The plans for raising young trees were fulfilled at the Tolbukhin, Stalin, and Tvrdishhte forest centers (gorsko stopanstvo). The forest center in Chernivit fulfilled the plan for raising young trees 400 percent; Voden, 148 percent; Ribarishte 260 percent; and Samokov, 200 percent.

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Another important measure in forestry which was tried last year for the first time is preliminary preparation of the soil. Its purpose is moisture-gathering, destruction of weeds, and improvement of the physical quality of the soil. The Suvorov forest center fulfilled its plan 200 percent and the former Blagoevgrad section, 174 percent.

A successful fight has also been waged against the caterpillar of the "gubovorka" insect. Bulgarian fliers, using special planes from the USSR, have dusted with chemicals 300,000 decares of forests afflicted with this caterpillar.

While notable successes have been achieved in Bulgarian forestry, many errors and defects have been permitted by the local forest services. The former Berkovitsa Regional Forest Directorate, the director of which was Stoil Spasov, and the Sliven Regional Forest Directorate, the director of which was Ivan Todorov, did not fulfill their plans for collecting tree seeds. The former Mirkov section, headed by Vladimir Minkov, permitted 12,000 kilograms of dyer's oak acorns to be ruined. The Duskotnen forest center (former director, Petko Kosevski) sent 6,000 kilograms of these acorns to Balchik for field shelter belts, but only 40 percent was fit to be sent.

Faults have also been permitted in planting and growing saplings. The Silistra Tree Nursery (former director, Lyudomir Cherninkov) had 70 percent losses in saplings because of poor storing, improper sowing, and failure to exercise the necessary care in raising seeds.

Some forest services have not fulfilled their forestation goals, while some have not placed the proper value on soil preparation, raising young trees, and improving and increasing pasture lands. In no way can the forest centers of the former Troyan and Tetevan regional forest directorates justify themselves for not having prepared a single hectare of land for forestation. The Tolbukhin forest center has fulfilled its plan only 21 percent. The same neglectful attitude toward raising young trees existed at the former Grudov, Duskotnen, and Emon forest centers. They have not fulfilled their plans for this measure even one percent.

The Berkovitsa center (director, Krum Atanosov) has placed little importance on the value of fertilizing pasture lands and, despite the fact that it received bone meal on time, it did not fertilize a single decare. The Stanke Dimitrov center (director, Ignat Ignatov) has shown the same negligence in setting up artificial meadows. It has not created one such meadow, and the grass seeds sent to it for this purpose are not being used.

The former Blagoevgrad sector for fortifying eroded lands and forestation headed by Georgi Koparanov, has not fulfilled a single percent of its plan for fortification of eroded lands.

The new hand cultivator, invented by Kosturkov of Panagyurishte, which replaces ten workers daily, was not put into practice throughout the country, not even in the nurseries in the region of the former Pirdop and Plovdiv forest directorates. This is the fault of the former Ministry of Forests, the present Forest Administration, and the local forestry services.

The tie with the party, people's soviets, and local mass organizations has been weak and perfunctory. Some of the administrative personnel from forest centers in the Burgas Okrug Administration have not deemed it necessary to turn to the party bureaus or the people's soviets, but waited to be sought out or invited.

The planning, executive, and financial accounts have not been handled properly, exactly, and on time. Large sums have been allocated at the end of the year, but not used. The former Berkovitsa Regional Forest Directorate (director, Stoil Spasov) allocated 11 million leva and the former Tolbukhin section (director, Ivan Petrov), 9 million leva for fortifying eroded lands and forestation.

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The importance of Bulgarian hunting has also been underestimated. Game resources have been looked upon as a gift and little has been done to improve and increase them.

The new objectives which the government is placing before the forestry workers are urgent and large in scope. In 1952, 2,170,000 kilograms of various tree seeds must be collected, 300 million saplings must be produced, depleted lands and gullies amounting to a total area of 550,000 decarees must be forested, 70,000 reforested, state forest belts of 30,000 decarees must be set up, the lands to be worked on for 1953 must be marked thoroughly and on time, the juniper on 40,000 decarees of pasture land must be cleared away, and 287,000 decarees of forest must be rid of the "gubotvorka" insect.(1)

Plan and Fulfillment For 1952

More than 620,000 decarees of depleted and diseased forests will be reforested in 1952.

Foresters are using more and more machines in the preparation of the soil for seeding and in reforestation of flat regions, but particularly in the establishment of field shelter belts. In reforestation and establishment of field shelter belts in Dobrudzha, use was made of the Soviet SLCh-1 type drills. A six-to seven-row drill can plant an area of 160 decarees per day. This method replaces the work of about 500 laborers. In the reforestation of Dobrudzha alone, thousands of man-days are being saved for other projects aimed at the transformation of Dobrudzha.

Besides its great economic effects, use of the drills makes it possible to complete reforestation work in the shortest period, 10 to 15 days, thereby achieving a high percentage of seedling germination.

The forest regeneration of depleted and eroded lands on the foothill regions of the country cannot be carried out in the same way. Due to the great slope and relief of the terrain, great difficulties are encountered in the full mechanization of the planting process. Reforestation work in these rayons will continue to be performed primarily by hand.

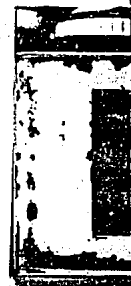
In the future, seeding will be preceded by the cultivation of the soil. Cultivation will be carried out to a considerable extent by machine plowing instead of manual plowing. The preliminary cultivation of the soil makes possible the wide application of seeding in furrows by the "mech na Kolesov" method. All forest centers are supplied with a sufficient number of "Kolesov sword" planting machines.

Whereas under the widely applied and labor-consuming method of planting by individual holes, 8 to 12 man-days are required per decare, row planting by means of the "Kolesov Sword" machines requires 2 to 3 man-days. The former method of reforestation costs 3,000 to 4,000 leva, while planting in furrows by machines reduces the costs by one half or even two thirds, a saving on the average of about 2,000 leva per decare. Yearly, hundreds of thousands of decarees will be reforested with this equipment, resulting in an average saving of 200 million leva for the national economy.(2)

As of 6 April 1952, a total of 230,000 decarees have been forested in Bulgaria, 40,000 decarees have been reforested, 80,000 decarees of rows of trees were filled in, and mixed planting was done on 5,800 decarees. Preparations for fall forestation have been carried out on 180,000 decarees.

As of 6 April 1952, 17,000 decarees of state forest belts have been forested and 14,000 decarees have been prepared for fall forestation.

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Kolarovgrad Okrug completed its spring forestation on 3 April 1952 and has now exceeded its plan by 1,400 decares. Vratsa Okrug likewise has fulfilled its plan, having forested 25,852 decares instead of 23,500.(3)

In 1952, the area of state nurseries will be expanded by 62 hectares. The total area will therefore amount to 151 hectares. For the planting of forest belts in Dobrudzha, 40,500,000 plants were grown in 1951. In 1952, the number will be raised to 75 million.(4)

The 1952 forestation plan calls for covering 9 percent of the total area in Bulgaria with forests.(5)

SOURCES

1. Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 6 Apr 52
2. Sofia, Vecherni Novini, 6 Apr 52
3. Ibid., 9 Apr 52
4. Berlin, Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 21 May 52
5. Warsaw, Gospodarka Planowa, No 7, Jul 52

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